

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 18 June 1968

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1. [ ] At his request I met with William Darden, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and briefed him on the community position with respect to the status of Communist China's ICBM and atomic energy programs. Darden was interested in getting this information in connection with the current description of the U. S. Sentinel program.

I advised Darden that we were preparing a response to Senator Thurmond's letter to us on the allegations contained in the May issue of The Washington Observer Newsletter. I told him we were also preparing material for his use with Senator Russell on this. Darden had no particular thoughts as to the advantages of an oral as opposed to a written response to Senator Thurmond.

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3. [ ] Met with Mr. J. R. Blandford, Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and advised him that Mr. Helms had talked to Chairman Rivers, who indicated in part that H. R. 13705 would be scheduled for hearings after completion of the military procurement hearings. Mr. Blandford observed that it would be his best guess at the moment that the Committee will be unable to complete hearings and get the procurement bill to the floor of the House before 2 July. Also briefed Mr. Blandford on the Venezuelan seizure of the Soviet tug Gromovoy and the impending military command staff exercise in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

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4. [ ] Met with Mr. Clifford Gaucher, Administrative Assistant to Representative Philbin, who advised he had talked to Mr. Philbin and that he will be pleased to meet with Mr. Maury and myself at noon tomorrow, 19 June.